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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A firearms safety device for securing a firearm against unauthorised use, comprising:

at least one locking portion—(20) that is insertable into a barrel—(100) and/or a cartridge chamber of the firearm and is optionally lockable and/or unlockable therein and optionally clampable within and/or detachable from the barrel—(100);

a control unit—(10) which is capable of authenticating a user and, upon authentication of the user, locks and/or unlocks or clamps at least the locking portion—(20) within the barrel—(100) of the firearm and or makes the safety device detachable;

the safety device—(1) being designed such that it is completely insertable into the barrel—(100) and/or the cartridge chamber for putting the firearm at safe.

2. (currently amended) A firearms safety device for securing a firearm against unauthorised use, comprising:

at least one locking portion—(20) that is insertable into a barrel—(100) and/or a cartridge chamber of the firearm and is optionally lockable and/or unlockable therein and optionally clampable within and/or detachable from the barrel—(100);

a transmission means for coupling to an operating means—(2-6) via which a user can optionally lock and/or unlock or clamp said safety device—(1) from outside and/or make it detachable;

a control unit—(10) that is capable of authenticating a user; and

an activation means—(26) which, upon authentication by the control unit—(10), enables or prevents locking and/or unlocking or clamping and/or detaching via the

transmission means ~~(40a)~~.

3. (currently amended) A firearms safety device for securing a firearm against unauthorised use, comprising:

at least one locking portion ~~(20)~~ that is insertable into a barrel ~~(100)~~ and/or a cartridge chamber of the firearm and is optionally lockable and/or unlockable therein and optionally clampable within and/or detachable from the barrel ~~(100)~~;

a severance protection ~~(41)~~ that is arranged in the locking portion ~~(20)~~ and comprises at least one inclined element ~~(41)~~ provided in said locking portion which inclined element is designed and positioned such that it expands the locking portion upon locking or clamping at least partially radially in case of an essentially axial force caused by manipulation so that the locking portion is locked or clamped even farther down the barrel ~~(100)~~ and/or the cartridge chamber.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the control unit ~~(10)~~ is electronic and is arranged within an area within the safety device ~~(1)~~ which is protected against unauthorised manipulation.

6. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 2, ~~4 or 5~~, wherein the activation means comprises a deactivation means ~~(26)~~.

7. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of claims 3 to 6~~, wherein the severance protection means ~~(41)~~ is provided with a plurality of plate-shaped, inclined elements with

graded expansibility.

8. (original) The safety device according to claim 7, wherein the elements with lower expansibility generate a counterforce that is necessary to expand the elements with higher expansibility in case of an axial force caused by manipulation.

9. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the safety device is provided with at least one armouring ~~(40a, 40b)~~ which protects the safety device against unauthorised manipulation from outside.

10. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein said safety device is provided with a first armouring ~~(40a)~~ protecting said safety device, if inserted into the barrel ~~(100)~~, against unauthorised manipulation from the barrel-muzzle end and a second armouring ~~(40b)~~ protecting said safety device, if inserted into the barrel ~~(100)~~, against unauthorised manipulation from the cartridge chamber end.

11. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein at least one armouring ~~(40)~~ is provided with a ceramic material or diamond.

12. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of claims 9 to 11~~, wherein an essentially axial mechanical energy manipulatively applied from outside to the armouring is absorbed by means behind the armouring such that the resultant force on the armouring is reduced which is thus prevented from breaking into pieces.

13. (original) The safety device according to claim 12, wherein the safety device is designed such that the manipulatively

applied mechanical energy is used to increase the clamping force applied to the safety device within the barrel.

14. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the safety device is designed such that the manipulatively applied mechanical energy is used to destroy the barrel.

15. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of~~ claims 12 ~~to 14~~, wherein the means for absorbing the essentially axial mechanical energy is part of the armouring itself.

16. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of~~ the ~~preceding~~ claims 1, wherein the locking portion ~~(20)~~ is provided with at least one clamping means ~~(22)~~ that is lockable within the barrel ~~(100)~~ of a weapon such that the safety device cannot be removed from the barrel ~~(100)~~.

17. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of~~ the ~~preceding~~ claims 1, wherein the locking portion ~~(20)~~ is provided with at least one clamping means that can be actuated from outside via an actuator ~~(40a, 21)~~, wherein unlocking is possible only if an inactivation is lifted by the control unit ~~(10)~~.

18. (original) The safety device according to claim 17, wherein the actuator is designed such that it merely gives the user the necessary degree of freedom for an authorised actuation of the locking portion from outside and, if not activated, this degree of freedom cannot be used for removing or manipulating the safety device.

19. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of~~

claims 17—~~or~~—18, wherein the actuator is provided with a predetermined breaking point—(29)—that is designed and dimensioned such that the actuator is permanently inactivated in case of an unauthorised manipulation.

20. (currently amended) The safety device according to—any—of claims 17—~~to~~—19, wherein the armouring—(40a)—is part of the actuator.

21. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 19 ~~or~~—20, wherein an actuation can be established by rotating the armouring—(40a).

22. (currently amended) The safety device according to—any—of claims 16—~~to~~—21, wherein the clamping means—(22)—comprises at least one expandable clamping jaw—(23).

23. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 22, wherein the clamping means—(22)—comprises at least one expanding means—(24)—that expands the clamping jaw(s)—(23)—upon actuation of the actuator.

24. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 23, wherein the expanding means—(24)—is provided essentially within the clamping jaw—(23)—and comprises at least one wedge surface that is movable with respect to a respective surface of the clamping jaw—(23)—so that it can be expanded.

25. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 23 ~~or~~—24, wherein the expanding means—(24)—comprises at least one expanding thread—(27)—which can be moved axially with respect to the respective surface of the clamping jaw—(23)—by actuation of the actuator—(40a, 21).

26. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein the clamping portion ~~(20)~~ is provided with at least one clamping means that is clampable within the barrel/cartridge chamber ~~(100)~~ of a weapon, wherein its clamping effect is increased as the force, such as tension, pressure and/or rotation, applied to an end accessible from outside increases.

27. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein an activation means ~~(11, 25, 26)~~ comprises an actuator ~~(11)~~ that is controllable via a control unit, a spindle ~~(25)~~ that is rotatable via the actuator ~~(11)~~ and a deactivation element ~~(26)~~ that is operable via the spindle ~~(25)~~, wherein, if operated (the safety device being in a state in which it cannot be removed), the deactivation element ~~(26)~~ prevents the expanding thread ~~(27a)~~ from being rotated.

28. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 27, wherein a mechanical potential has to be overcome for operating the deactivation element ~~(26)~~.

29. (currently amended) The safety device according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein the control unit ~~(10)~~ comprises electronic means ~~(10)~~ that essentially authenticates a user.

30. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 29, wherein the electronic means ~~(10)~~ is supplied with energy from outside via an electric connection ~~(12)~~, preferably galvanically, capacitatively or inductively.

31. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 30, wherein the authentication data are also exchanged via said

connection~~-(12)~~.

32. (currently amended) The safety device according to~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein a device is provided that inhibits/diverts the manipulatively applied electric energy such that no opening is possible.

33. (original) The safety device according to claim 32, wherein the device inhibiting/diverting manipulatively applied energy comprises an element for blowing, in case of manipulatively applied energy, which inhibits or interrupts the current supply.

34. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 32 ~~or 33~~, wherein the device inhibiting/diverting manipulatively applied energy is designed such that manipulatively applied energy is led past the actuator~~-(11)~~.

35. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 32, ~~33 or 34~~, wherein the device inhibiting/diverting manipulatively applied energy is designed such that manipulatively applied energy is preset to be led to the actuator~~-(11)~~ such that it is operated towards inactivation.

36. (currently amended) The safety device according to~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein a second actuator~~-(27b)~~ and a second expanding thread~~-(27b)~~ are provided via which and via a respective inner thread in a second expanding cone~~-(24b)~~ said second expanding cone~~-(24b)~~ is axially movable and wherein said second expanding thread~~-(27b)~~ is rotatable via its inner end.

37. (currently amended) The safety device according to~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein a second locking portion~~-(20b)~~, which is at first separate from the remaining safety device, is

insertable into and clampable or lockable within the barrel~~-(100)~~ of the weapon, wherein said second locking portion is no longer de-clampable/unlockable upon insertion of the first locking portion.

38. (currently amended) The safety device according to claim 37, wherein the remaining safety device is insertable into the barrel ~~-(100)~~ of the weapon up to the second locking portion~~-(20b)~~, wherein the remaining safety device can be clamped/locked with the barrel and/or the second locking portion.

39. (currently amended) The safety device according to~~any of~~ claims 37~~and 38~~, wherein the second locking portion~~-(20b)~~ is designed such that it can be arranged within the cartridge chamber and the barrel~~-(100)~~.

40. (currently amended) Operating means for a safety device according to~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, comprising:

coupling means~~-(4, 5, 6)~~ for coupling the operating means to a transmission means~~-(40a, 40b)~~ of the safety device ~~-(1)~~ and for transmitting an authorisation request to the safety device~~-(1)~~ and/or a force for locking and/or unlocking or clamping and/or removing the safety device from the barrel~~-(100)~~ and/or the cartridge chamber.

41. (currently amended) The operating means according to claim 40, wherein the coupling means~~-(4, 5, 6)~~ comprises an engagement means~~-(5)~~ and the transmission means is formed by an armouring ~~-(40a)~~ of the safety device~~-(1)~~ so that the engagement means (5) can engage with and rotate the armouring~~-(40a)~~.

42. (currently amended) The operating means according to claim 41, wherein the coupling means~~-(4, 5, 6)~~ comprises contacting

means—(6) via which an authorisation means is transmitted to the safety device—(1).

43. (currently amended) The operating means according to claim 42, moreover comprising gripping means—(3) which a user can rotate and which subsequently transmits the rotation to the transmission means—(40a) of the safety device—(1) via the coupling means—(4).

44. (currently amended) The operating means according to ~~any of claims 40 to 43~~ which is capable of examining whether the safety device has been correctly inserted according to predetermined criteria by monitoring the mechanical parameters during operation and/or by reply from the control unit—(10).

45. (currently amended) The operating means according to ~~any of claims 40 to 44~~ comprising an electronic control means—(2) that is programmable by a computer and, if necessary, transmits the authorisation request to the contacting means—(6).

46. (currently amended) A method for securing a firearm against unauthorised use, in particular comprising a safety device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ 1, comprising the following steps:

providing at least one locking portion—(20);

inserting the entire safety device and the locking portion—(20) into the barrel and/or the cartridge chamber of the firearm;

providing a control unit—(10) authenticating the user and, if the user is authorised, locking and/or unlocking or clamping the locking portion—(20) in the barrel—(100) of the firearm and/or detaching the safety device;

transmitting an authentication code to the control unit; and

optionally locking and/or unlocking or optionally clamping the locking portion~~-(20)~~ and/or removing the safety device from the barrel.

47. (currently amended) A method for securing a firearm against unauthorised use, in particular comprising a safety device according to~~any of~~ claims 1~~to~~ 45, comprising the following steps:

providing at least one locking portion~~-(20)~~;

providing a control unit~~-(10)~~ that is capable of authenticating a user and, if the user is authorised, locks and/or unlocks or clamps at least the locking portion~~-(20)~~ in the barrel~~-(100)~~ of the firearm and/or makes the safety device detachable; and

providing an activation means~~-(26)~~ which, upon authentication by the control unit~~-(10)~~, enables or prevents locking and/or unlocking or clamping and/or detachment via the transmission means~~-(40a)~~.

48. (currently amended) A method for securing a firearm against unauthorised use, in particular comprising a safety device according to~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1~~to~~ 45, comprising the following steps:

providing at least one locking portion~~-(20)~~;

inserting the safety device and the locking portion~~-(20)~~ into the barrel and/or the cartridge chamber of the firearm; and

providing a severance protection means~~-(41)~~ in the locking portion~~-(20)~~, wherein the severance protection means ~~(41)~~ comprises at least one inclined element~~-(41)~~ within the locking portion which is positioned and

designed such that it at least partially radially expands the locking portion upon locking or clamping in case of an essentially axial force caused by manipulation so that the locking portion is locked or clamped farther down in the barrel—~~(100)~~ and/or the | cartridge chamber.